

I/WE CLAIM:

1. A refrigerator comprising:
 - a cabinet shell;
 - a liner arranged in the cabinet shell and defining a food compartment;
 - a door attached to and movable relative to the cabinet shell in order to selectively access the food compartment;
 - at least one shelving unit provided in the food compartment, said at least one shelving unit being adapted to support food items thereon; and
 - a retainer assembly for securing food items on the at least one shelving unit, said retainer assembly including a divider element mounted for movement along a defined axis relative to the at least one shelving unit, and a biasing member urging the divider element in a predetermined direction, wherein food items positioned on the at least one shelving unit are automatically engaged by the divider element in order to be maintained in a snug configuration.
2. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the retainer assembly further includes a support arm extending from the divider element, said support arm mounting the divider element for sliding movement relative to the at least one shelving unit.
3. The refrigerator according to claim 2, wherein the at least one shelving unit is defined by a door pick-off bucket including at least one upstanding wall, said support arm being directly, slidably supported by the at least one upstanding wall.

4. The refrigerator according to claim 3, wherein the at least one upstanding wall constitutes a front wall of the door pick-off bucket.
5. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the biasing member constitutes a spiral spring.
6. The refrigerator according to claim 5, wherein the spiral spring includes first and second end portions, with the first end portion being attached to the divider element and the second end portion being attached to the at least one shelving unit.
7. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the retainer assembly further includes a pair of plates which are spaced so as to define a cavity therebetween, said biasing member including a first end portion which extends into the cavity.
8. The refrigerator according to claim 7, wherein the at least one shelving unit is formed with at least one opening, said biasing member including a second end portion directly attached to the at least one shelving unit through said opening.
9. The refrigerator according to claim 1, wherein the biasing member constitutes a tension spring.
10. A retainer assembly for a refrigerator including a cabinet shell defining a food compartment and at least one shelving unit for supporting food items within the refrigerator comprising:

a divider element mounted for movement along a defined axis relative to the at least one shelving unit; and

a biasing member urging the divider element in a predetermined direction relative to the at least one shelving unit, wherein food items positioned on the at least one shelving unit are automatically engaged by the divider element in order to be maintained in a snug configuration.

11. The retainer assembly according to claim 10, wherein the retainer assembly further includes a support arm extending from the divider element, said support arm mounting the divider element for sliding movement relative to the at least one shelving unit.

12. The retainer assembly according to claim 11, wherein the at least one shelving unit is defined by a door pick-off bucket including at least one upstanding wall, said support arm being directly, slidably supported by the at least one upstanding wall.

13. The retainer assembly according to claim 12, wherein the at least one upstanding wall constitutes a front wall of the door pick-off bucket.

14. The retainer assembly according to claim 10, wherein the biasing member constitutes a spiral spring.

15. The retainer assembly according to claim 14, wherein the spiral spring includes first and second end portions, with the first end portion being attached to the divider element and the second end portion being attached to the at least one shelving unit.

16. The retainer assembly according to claim 10, wherein the retainer assembly further includes a pair of plates which are spaced so as to define a cavity therebetween, said biasing member including a first end portion which extends into the cavity.

17. The retainer assembly according to claim 16, wherein the at least one shelving unit is formed with at least one opening, said biasing member including a second end portion directly attached to the at least one shelving unit through said opening.

18. The retainer assembly according to claim 10, wherein the biasing member constitutes a tension spring.

19. A method of retaining food items on a shelving unit of a refrigerator comprising:

positioning the food items on the shelving unit, between a divider element movably attached to the shelving unit and a wall within the refrigerator; and

automatically shifting the divider element against the food items to retain the food items on the shelving unit in a snug configuration.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the divider element is automatically shifted by biasing the divider element towards the wall through the use of a spring member.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the automatic shifting of the divider element constitutes sliding the divider element relative to the shelving unit.